

## Invest in Bristol News

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## September 2008

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**Environment Agency chooses Bristol's greenest building as its new HQ**

**Invest in Bristol News – 30th September**

Following Government approval and exchange of contracts, Westmark's Cabot House in Bristol city centre will be the new national headquarters for the Environment Agency from late 2010. Built to meet the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Appraisal Method (BREEAM) "excellent" criteria, it is set to be one of the "greenest" buildings in the UK.

Councillor Helen Holland, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: "It's great news for our city that Europe's largest organisation dedicated to protecting and improving the environment has chosen to relocate to Bristol. This decision by the Environment Agency reflects Bristol's continued success in attracting major public sector organisations and private sector companies, and underlines why Bristol has the most successful English economy outside London. Bristol is keen to gain the title of European green capital and this announcement gives our city the opportunity to further develop partnerships which can lead the way in sustainable development."

The Environment Agency's decision to consolidate its operations from three sites in the Bristol city region into its new HQ building in Bristol city centre underlines the strong public sector presence in the city, including the Audit Commission; HEFCE; Ministry of Defence; Ofsted, and the UK Transplant Authority. It also further underlines Bristol's appeal as an investment location for green organisations and businesses.

Bristol City Council's Reception Service for Major Investors played an important role in bringing the Environment Agency into the city, and will continue to do so to help ensure its relocation to the centre of Bristol is a success. The Reception Service offers help in finding suitable sites or property, information to support the development of a business case, and crucial links to Planning and other key council services.

**Cabot Circus opening is 'quantum leap' for Bristol**

**Evening Post – 25th September**

Bristol City Council leader Helen Holland has today described Cabot Circus as "a quantum leap" beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Ten years ago the council knew it wanted a triangle of major areas of change to transform Bristol. It included redevelopment at Harbourside, the new business area at Temple Quay – and expansion at Bristol's tired-looking Broadmead shopping centre.

Bob de Barr, of developers Land Securities – and project director of the Bristol Alliance after it was set up to take on the huge scheme in 2000 – remembers sitting down with two architects for a brainstorming session at the Bristol Marriott Hotel. And that's how it started – Mr de Barr, two architects and a piece of paper. Ten years on – and, no doubt, several thousand sheets of paper later – the end result is set to be a match of Birmingham's new Bullring or any other city centre in Britain. The well-travelled Mr de Barr said: "It's right up there with anything I've seen in the world."

Built in five different blocks, designed by five different architects, Cabot Circus is unique. Director Richard Belt, who has run other major shopping centres in the past – including Lakeside, in Essex, and the Glades, at Bromley, in south London – said: "Cabot Circus really is different. For a start it doesn't have doors on. So many do and they look inward. They don't think what's happening in the rest of their city centre. The last thing we wanted was what happens in many cities: a new little jewel is surrounded by areas that need serious attention."

Bristol is different. For a start, one of the city's historic gems, Quakers Friars, has been almost rediscovered and turned into what Ms Holland calls the project's "jewel in the crown". But parts of Broadmead next to the new shopping centre have also been given a facelift so that the "join" is less visible. And, as Ms Holland told the Evening Post, this could be just the start. Cabot Circus should also inspire other transformation in the city centre over the new few years – for instance, in the area around High Street and Wine Street...



**GKN Acquires Airbus Filton Wing Component Operation**

**GKN Press Release – 15th September**

GKN has announced that it has agreed to acquire the wing component manufacturing and assemblies operation, which is located on the Airbus Filton site in the UK. Airbus has also awarded GKN life of programme contracts on all existing Airbus programmes for the Filton operation. GKN has also signed contracts for significant work packages to design and produce large-scale composite structures for the wing of the new A350 XWB (Extra Wide Body) long haul airliner.

In 2009, the first full year under GKN’s ownership, it is expected that the Filton operation will have revenues of approximately £375 million. The Filton wing component and assemblies operation being acquired by GKN employs approximately 1,500 people and has been developed by Airbus as a centre of excellence for wing structures.

GKN Chief Executive, Sir Kevin Smith, said, “The acquisition of the Filton wing components and assemblies manufacturing operation is a further exciting step in the development of GKN’s Aerospace business. The strategic logic is compelling. It brings a long-term partnership with Airbus and a strong order backlog, which supports solid growth. In addition, the position secured on A350 XWB provides future growth at the leading edge of aerospace composites manufacturing technology.”

**Bristol rated the most competitive core city**

**Bristol City Council press release – 15th September**

Bristol has been ranked as the most competitive English core city, according to a new economic study. The UK Competitiveness Index 2008, which has been published by the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, sees Bristol outstripping rival cities such as Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle in the performance of its economy and success as a world-class investment location.

Councillor Helen Holland, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: "The findings of the UK Competitiveness Index 2008 are further proof of Bristol’s standing as an internationally competitive city and a major location for new investment. This new report emphasises the underlying strength of the local economy, which is boosted by the city’s ongoing ability to attract major new investment."

**Bristol - a leading venue for businesses**

**Invest in Bristol News**

Bristol City Council leader Councillor Helen Holland was among the delegates attending and speaking at the Offices '08 national property conference in Newport, Wales on Monday 15th September.

Offices '08 was attended by around 600 of the country’s leading office developers, investors, surveyors and corporate tenants. The event addressed a range of key issues facing the office sector including office development and its impact on the environment; Government policy; planning; transport networks; investment and Real Estate Investment Trusts.

Councillor Helen Holland, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: “Bristol is already known as an attractive place for investment, but we need to continue to up our game if we are going to punch our weight in a competitive global market. We are already making significant improvements - strengthening our marketing and enhancing the service we offer to developers and investors...



**Circus inspires £10m facelift for Broadmead's 'western frontier'**

**Evening Post – 9th September**

As work nears an end on Bristol's new £500-million Cabot Circus shopping centre, plans for a new £10m redevelopment 200 yards away have been unveiled.

CSJ Planning, on behalf of client Urbina Bristol Ltd Partnership, has secured full planning permission for the demolition of a series of tired and outdated buildings on Wine Street, Union Street and Fairfax Street, within the western end of Broadmead.

The existing buildings within the site, Southey House, Aylward House and Bliss Cafe Bar, currently provide 8,035sqm gross external area, but are not deemed energy efficient.

The new development will include 15,000sqm of new office accommodation and a range of shops...

Once completed, phase one will secure more than £100 million of investment in new public facilities for South Bristol, while retaining around 2,000 jobs in the area...

**Work begins on Hengrove Park regeneration**

**Bristol City Council press release – 4th September**

Work gets underway in Bristol this week on the first phase of one of the most important regeneration schemes in South West England.

The multi-million pound development at Hengrove Park will deliver a massive boost to the people of South Bristol.

The first phase of the project will see the delivery of significant new community facilities including a Community Hospital being developed for Bristol Primary Care Trust; a Skills Academy to be run by City of Bristol College and a new 'Healthplex' leisure centre for Bristol City Council, to be built and operated by Bristol Active Ltd.

In addition, the scheme will deliver a new national headquarters building for the global share registry Computershare and new offices for the international drinks brands company Constellation Europe and leading drinks supplier Matthew Clark, all existing major local employers...

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